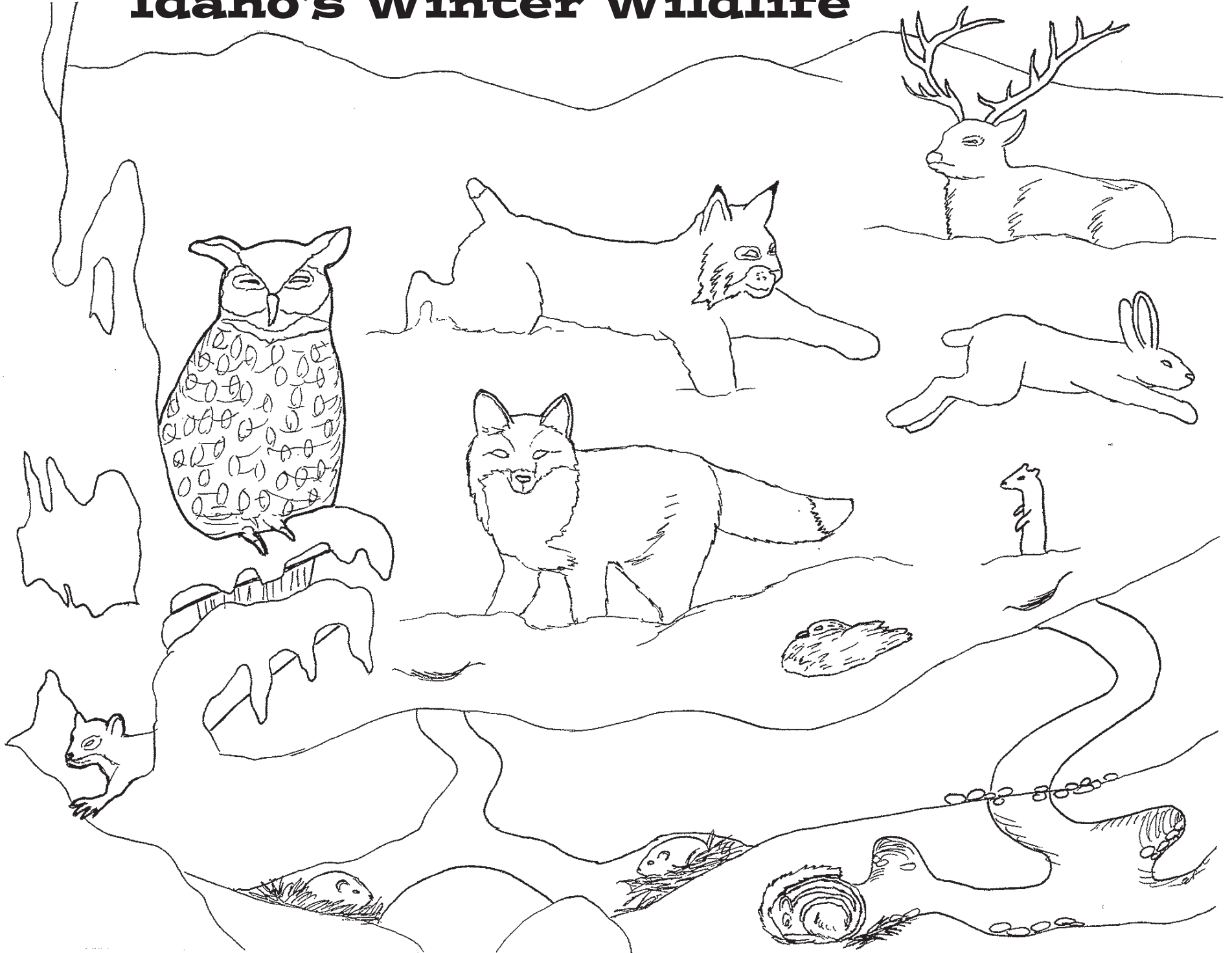


Idaho's Winter Wildlife



Life above and below the snow

Winter means snow, cold temperatures, and short days. There are many ways that animals can adapt to winter. Trees and logs provide shelter and cavities for **owls**, **squirrels** and other animals. Small animals like **shrews**, **mice**, and **voles** are protected from cold and predators under the snow. **Elk** travel to lower elevations in winter to find food. Its keen sense of hearing helps the **red fox** detect the rustling of small mammals under the snow. **Snowshoe hare** and **Canada lynx** have big feet to help them travel easily through deep snow. **Ermine** and **snowshoe hare** grow a white coat for winter camouflage. **Grouse** will plunge into the snow to spend the night secure and well insulated. Snow is important to these animals and to our lifestyle. The U.S. Forest Service manages the National Forests to provide habitat for wildlife and clean water for people.

What is your favorite winter animal? Why?

How do you prepare for winter?

Draw your own winter scene, here or on separate paper. Think about what you will be doing in your picture -- ice-skating, sledding, skiing, or snowshoeing? Add details like trees and animals to your drawing.

Go wild this winter!

Boise National Forest

